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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) The Srimushnam Poor Students' Hostel was recognized by the Department of Harijan Welfare in January 1954. It could not be recognized earlier for want of funds.

" (b) The first application was dated the 15th March 1952 and the last the 4th January 1954."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Sir, this is one of the few poor Backward Class students' hostels in the State which are run on proper lines. There are about 30 to 40 student boarders in the hostel. The Government have given recognition only to about 10 students and there are more than 30 students still to be recognized by the Government. Will the Government come forward to recognize all the other students also and thus assist the hostel to serve the poor students well? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, at the outset, as a matter of general policy, we give scholarships only to ten students. The question of increasing the grant will be considered next year."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" Sir, here it is mentioned that there is a proprietor for the hostel. Do they mean a Manager or somebody or a gentleman who is making something out of running this hostel? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Perhaps, they mean the Manager."

Defalcation in the Manapparai Co-operative Marketing Society.

* 659 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government received any representation, dated 26th December 1953, from the Youth Congress, Manapparai, regarding the mismanagement and defalcation in the Manapparai Co-operative Marketing Society by its President and Secretary; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) & (b) A printed notice, dated 26th December 1953, issued by the Youth Congress, Manapparai was received by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. It contained among others the following allegations :—

(1) that the President of the Manapparai Co-operative Marketing Society sold in blackmarket iron and steel entrusted to the society for distribution to ryots; and

(2) that the Secretary used the Society's lorry for his own private contract work and paid the Society at a very low rate.

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An examination of the accounts of the Society has revealed certain irregularities in the sale of iron and steel and the hiring of the Society's lorry. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is examining the question of taking action against the President and the Secretary for irregularities.''

Loss sustained by the Government Nandanar Institutions due to cyclone.

* 660 *Q*.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any loss was sustained by the Government Nandanar Institutions on account of the Tanjore cyclone in December 1952; and

(*b*) if so, the nature and the extent of loss?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' (*a*) No loss was sustained by the Government Nandanar Institutions on account of cyclone in 1952.

'' (*b*) Does not arise.''

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—'' Sir, may I know whether there was any expenditure on electricity schemes immediately after the Tanjore Cyclones and if so, what is the amount spent on that? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' Sir, I am afraid the hon. Member is switching on to some other question.''

Strike of estate workers of Wynaad.

* 661 *Q*.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the recent general strike of 20,000 estate workers of Wynaad, Malabar, was called off as the Hon. the Chief Minister promised to intervene in the dispute; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government to redress their grievances?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) Yes. The Chief Minister advised Shri Kumaran to break his fast and assured workers that the Government will examine their grievances. On this assurance being given, Shri Kumaran broke his fast and workers resumed work.

'' (*b*) A Special Industrial Tribunal has been constituted for plantations. Many of the issues raised by plantation workers have been referred to this Tribunal for adjudication, and the award of the Tribunal is awaited.''